

Nancy Redfeather
P.O. Box 906
Kealahou, Hawaii
96750
nancyredfeather@yahoo.com

Aloha,

I have a small family educational/experimental farm that I run with my husband in the mauka Kona area. We grow orchard and vegetable crops, we are conducting coffee varietals trials and experiment with vegetable varieties and seed selection and improvement. We do community educational gardening work.

Question #1 - I don't believe in the WTO vision of "whoever can produce something the cheapest" should. As we now take into account the costs of oil to transport agricultural commodities around the world, this suddenly appears to be a poor option the future of agriculture. Undercutting farmers in other countries, by selling our "cheap subsidized food" only serves to eliminate local sustainable food systems from developing countries and create poverty. Farmers in the US should farm not for the "Food Aid" program, or continue to grow grains that the world doesn't want to buy, but actually begin to farm higher value organic food for the world markets, and development of organic seed. Agricultural subsidies and controlling the price of grains, is causing a glut on the market (corn) and tax dollars poorly spent.

Question #2 "Unintended consequences" could be construed as genetic material not staying where it is "supposed" to be. The state of Hawaii is known as the center for experimental genetically engineered field trials of agricultural crops in the US. The consequences of these thousands of trials since 1988 are unknown. The public is unable to know where these trials are occurring or the genes inserted, consequences to the soil environment, the ecosystem, or human health of workers and neighbors. This is unacceptable and irresponsible. Producers of GMO crops should be liable for genetic drift, which

1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 26

[illegible]

contaminates conventional or organic farms whether the crop is "deregulated", or not.

Question #3 Assistance should be distributed to all economic levels of farms, not just corporate farms. Here in Hawai'i we import about 85% of our food. We are totally dependent on oil to bring it here. In 1930 we were self sufficient. Food security issues are real here, and are not adequately being addressed. The plantation system is over. The future for Hawaii is small and medium sized farms producing high value crops, value added, market gardens, CSAs, etc. Development of community and home gardens, and investment in school gardens and programs for the children is sorely needed here. Grants need to be available to small and medium producers, especially ones who have the ability or desire to produce food, or assist the community in development of these kinds of food producing projects as I mentioned above. Pouring monies into the state or university in support of high tech biotech agricultural research is not the real need here in the islands. That only supports the corporations. Peoples of Hawaii need to eat fresh, food sustainably grown and grown close to home.

Question #4 Stop allowing the legislature to cut funds for these programs. Reward farmers who work with the land in ecological ways.

Question #5 In Hawaii, farmers need development of water systems so that they can farm. Farmers need land, and need to live on their land. They need access to information on how to farm without harm, how to farm ecologically and sustainably. Establishment of farmers markets and commercial kitchens to make value added products.

Question #6 The future of agriculture in Hawaii will NOT be biotech. The future of agriculture lies with diversified farming, small family farms, each producing what they love to grow in their niche area. Development of a good Organic/Sustainable Educational Program at UH Manoa. Grants for small and medium size producers, who are trying to get started, serve the community, grow food, grow knowledge, or provide educational opportunities for people to relearn how to grow

some of their own food. I know these ideas don't fit into the corporate model, but they will work here and any "developing" county.

Thank you for this opportunity to share some of my ideas. I have been picking coffee all day and am pretty tired. Hope I was clear.

Aloha,

Nancy Redfeather

I love to grow food. I have a small farm in the mauka area of Kona where I have lived for almost 30 years. My ancestors had a large farm in Iowa and brought the first black angus cattle to the United States from Scotland in the late 1800s. I have also been a teacher for over 20 years. I read a lot about the history of agriculture, and my husband and I have many agricultural experiments and projects on our farm. I think I have a pretty wide view of agriculture.

I see wonderful people doing their best to care for creation and produce healthful food. And I see practices that pollute the soil, water and air, and destroy our long-term ability to feed ourselves.

It's easy to blame the farmers for destructive farming, but I believe that our federal farm program is largely responsible. The main objective of this program is cheap food and raw material for industry. It forces farmers to cut corners with our soil and water and to use practices that harm the land on which agriculture depends.

As our food source suffers, so eventually do we all. And things are getting worse.

According to the Oakland-based group Redefining Progress, Americans are running down the earth's biological capital at a rate five times what can be sustained. More fertilizer has polluted the rivers, more topsoil has washed away to the ocean, and more pesticides have polluted the groundwater and our food. Bioengineered "Frankenfoods" have infiltrated the supermarket and contaminated the gene pool. Multinational corporations have commandeered the marketplace, and 80% of America's family farms have been abandoned. Something is wrong with USDA policy.

Of course there have been efforts to protect our soil and water, without which the situation would be even worse. But I don't think farmers alone can change agriculture.

Nonfarmers are concerned also, and now that 98% of Americans don't farm, the decisions nonfarmers make about what to buy, what to value,

Journal of Management Education 30(6)p.789-804
© The Author(s) 2006

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

what kind of public policy choices are made are more important than the decisions farmers can make about how to farm. Nonfarmers must become more involved in shaping farm policy, if for no other reason than that their taxes pay for it. For the money they spend, they should get a program that encourages production of the kind of food they want to eat, grown in a way that assures that generations to come can eat as well.

Specifically, they should demand more money for the underfunded conservation security program which rewards farmers for good conservation practices, not the volume of crops they grow. Nonfarmers should demand rewards and regulations that encourage farmers to switch to organic methods, which shun synthetic fertilizers and pesticides. Lobbyists for ag chemical companies have major influence over farm legislation, while organics while growing every year is much weaker. Nonfarmers and farmers alike must weigh in on the the side of organic farming. They can start by insisting that the USDA defend its organic rules against those who would loosen them.

Farmers are now a small minority in the US. We need a farm program that keeps farm families on the land, topsoil out of the rivers and oceans, and healthy food on our plates. We need to consider the generations who are to come, we need to act responsibly today.

